It would be advantageous if a plurality of scripts could be generated, in parallel, for any particular processed document.

It would be advantageous if the user could easily generate and edit the plurality of workflow scripts.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The objective of this invention is to enhance the workflow processing in an office environment. This invention removes the need for running an application to do workflow processing. This invention allows the user to specify different workflow for different folders, which will run automatically when a document arrives in these folders. That is, the invention enhances workflow processing by integrating workflow into the operating system, permitting the user to run different scripts on different folders automatically.

Accordingly, a method is provided for managing workflow, using a plurality of scripts, in a workflow system. The method comprises: selecting a multifunction peripheral (MFP) device at which the document is to be processed; supplying a plurality of folders with a corresponding plurality of scripts; selecting a first number of folders; processing a document using processes such as faxing, scanning, copying, and printing; adding the processed document to the selected folders; and, in response to adding the processed document to a first number of selected folders, generating the document in a first number of scripts.

The system typically includes at least one computer workstation with an operating system, connected to a MFP device.

Then, the method further comprises: installing a shell extension to the computer operating system; in response to accessing the shell extension, generating the first number of folders; writing a script for each of the first number of folders using a protocol selected from the group including Java and visual basic (VB); in response to accessing the shell extension, selecting folders for editing; editing the scripts in the selected folders; and, saving the folders.

Additional details of the above-mentioned method for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts, and a system for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts are provided below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram of the present invention system for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts.

Fig. 2 is a flowchart illustrating the present invention method for managing workflow using a plurality of scripts in a workflow system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Some portions of the detailed descriptions that follow are presented in terms of procedures, steps, logic blocks, codes, processing, and other symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a microprocessor or memory. These descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. A procedure, microprocessor executed

step, application, logic block, process, etc., is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps or instructions leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated in a microprocessor device. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like. Where physical devices, such as a memory are mentioned, they are connected to other physical devices through a bus or other electrical connection. These physical devices can be considered to interact with logical processes or applications and, therefore, are "connected" to logical operations. For example, a memory can store or access code to further a logical operation, or an application can call a code section from memory for execution.

It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the present invention, discussions utilizing terms such as "processing" or "connecting" or "translating" or "displaying" or "prompting" or "supplying" or "allocating" or "establishing" or "selecting" or "storing" or "receiving" or "determining" or "displaying" or "recognizing" or the like, refer to the action and processes of in a microprocessor system